



# Sussex County Emergency Medical Services

P.O. Box 589, Georgetown, DE 19947

Timothy R. Cooper, NREMT-P  
Public Information Office

Glenn Luedtke  
Director

Office: (302) 854-5050

Pager: (302) 854-8433

Fax: (302) 855-7780

---

## News Article

### Sussex County EMS Announces Award Winners at Annual EMS Banquet

For immediate Release:

FSNJA 05-02

Sussex County EMS, Sussex County Paramedic Association and Sussex County Volunteer Ambulance Association sponsored an EMS Banquet on Friday April 29, 2005 at the Baywoods Clubhouse in Millsboro, Delaware. During the banquet a number of awards were given for professionalism and achievement. Some of these awards include Shift Excellence, EMT, EMS Nurse, EMS Physician, Emergency Communications Specialist, and Paramedic of the Year.

A paramedic from each of the four shifts was selected for shift excellence by their Supervisor for outstanding dedication by improving their clinical skills or outstanding achievement during their participation or leadership in departmental projects or activities.

#### **A-Shift Shift Excellence-Ray Fulkrod**

Ray Fulkrod received the award for A-Shift Excellence Award for his tireless efforts to improve patient care and safety. Ray has been a member of the Safety Board and the Executive Quality Committee. This committee provides direction for formulating the department's long-range goals. In addition, Ray has recently completed a Bachelor's Degree and is now working towards his Master's Degree. Ray is married and lives Millville, Delaware. Ray has been with SCEMS since 2002.

#### **B-Shift Shift Excellence-Eric Huovinen**

Eric Huovinen received the award for Shift Excellence Award for B-Shift. Eric has been a Field Training Officer (FTO) and a Paramedic III. In this role, Eric is responsible for

filling in as a Supervisor and training new employees. Eric always strives to improve patient care. As an FTO, Eric has been working with newly hired paramedics, integrating them into the system and ensuring that their skills and abilities meet the high standards of SCEMS. In the absence of the regular Supervisor, Eric has been a leader on the shift, guiding the team without difficulty. Eric is an Active member of the Millville Fire Company, and lives with his wife and two sons in Millville, Delaware.

### **Basic Life Support Awards**

Sussex County EMS Selected an EMT from each of the seven Paramedic Districts to be honored as EMT of the Year for consistently displaying a high level of professionalism and dedication to excellence.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 101 – Bill Nagle**

Bill Nagle received the award for EMT of the Year for Medic Station 101. Bill serves as the Ambulance Captain for the Ellendale Fire Company where he has been a member for the past fifteen years. Bill has dedicated his life to helping the people of Ellendale and Milton. He is always eager to help on calls and is always around to help out the crews. Bill will often respond directly to the scene to help out if he is nearby. His selfless dedication is appreciated and recognized with this award. Bill has been certified as an EMT-B since 2002.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 102 – Ryan Whittington**

Ryan received the award for EMT of the Year for Station 102. Ryan constantly displays a positive attitude toward his patient care and duties in the station. Many times he is first on scene of a call and he is always eager to provide the best care possible and put his patients at ease. Even though Ryan has only been an EMT a short time he is very knowledgeable. Ryan continues to be an active volunteer in Parsonsburg, Maryland where he serves as a Fire Lieutenant.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 103 – Richie Condon**

Richie received the award for EMT of the Year for Station 103. Richie returned from service to his country in Iraq, and back to service to the community. Richie was employed as a paid EMT-B at Georgetown American Legion Ambulance during the past year. His care is

always very professional and his interview questions and techniques pertinent and appropriate.

Richie is also active as the ambulance Captain with the Laurel Fire Department. Richie is currently attending the Delaware State Police Academy as a police recruit from the Laurel police Department.

#### **EMT of the Year 104 – Robbie Brode**

Robbie received the award for EMT of the Year for Station 104. Robbie is very caring and professional, and is always eager to learn more and increase his knowledge. Robbie and his family are all active in the fire service and emergency services community. Robbie has been an EMT since 2001. He is employed as an EMT-B for the Lewes Fire Department.; and has been a member of Harrington Fire Company since 1997 where he serves as a Fire Captain. Robbie has been honored by Harrington Fire Company as both Fire Fighter and EMT of the Year.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 105 – Shelley Wilson**

Shelley received the award for EMT of the Year for Medic Station 105. Shellie's skills and assessments are exceptional. Her experience as a former ALS provider in Maryland and a nursing student give her an expanded medical knowledge base. Besides having great patient care abilities Shellie is also very professional and she consistently receives compliments from her patients.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 106 – Chris Willey**

Chris received the award for EMT of the Year for Medic Station 106. During 2004, Chris Willey worked at station 91 as an EMT-B. Chris recently accepted a position as a full time Delaware National Guard recruiter in Georgetown. Chris is an excellent and caring EMT who will often check up on patients after a call. Chris takes pride in being an EMT. He was also instrumental in working with the community during EMS Week. Chris was always very knowledgeable and eager to learn more. During calls he continues to increase his knowledge by asking questions and working closely with the Paramedics. Chris is an active member of the Lewes Fire Department.

#### **EMT of the Year Medic 107 – Doug Butler**

Doug Butler received the award for EMT of the Year for Medic Station 107. Even though he has extensive responsibilities as a chief officer he has never wavered on his commitment to EMS. Doug has been very active in EMS, receiving top responder honors for the past two years. Last year, Chief Butler was honored by his department as EMT of the Year and received a proclamation from the City of Seaford honoring him as Volunteer of the Year. Doug Butler has been a member of the Seaford Fire Department since 1981 and has served as Chief for the past three years.

### **Emergency Communication Specialist of the Year – Karen Tull**

Karen received the award for Emergency Communication Specialist of the Year-formally known as Dispatcher of the Year. The award has been re-named this year to reflect the professionalism, certification, training, and dedication that these unsung heroes demonstrate every day. Karen is an exceptional Emergency Communication Specialist and Shift Supervisor with great decision making and management skills. Karen is very assertive and will step in to re-route units to ensure the best coverage of the county and the best patient care are always provided. Karen recently became an EMT-B and received the Rookie of the Year Award from the Blades Fire Company, where she is a member. Karen has been with the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center since 1998 and she has been an Assistant Supervisor for the past five years. Karen lives in Blades and has two daughters.

### **EMS Physician of the Year - Paul T. Cowan, D.O.**

Dr. Cowan received the award for EMS Physician of the Year. Dr. Cowan's background as a paramedic has proven invaluable when interacting with SCEMS paramedics. Dr. Cowan is a Staff Physician at the Beebe Medical Center Emergency Department, and often meets with the paramedic crew after a call to discuss a patient's case, or to give an update on a patient brought in earlier. Paul does this frequently, and always makes time to make comments and teaching points. His common sense approach, along with his extensive knowledge base and sense of humor make any situation an enjoyable experience and any learning situation memorable.

Dr. Cowan has consistently proven that he is an invaluable asset to our system, and a welcome addition as the assistant medical director for SCEMS. Dr. Cowan, who started his career as a paramedic in Kent County, Delaware, began working with Sussex County EMS as the Associate Medical Director in 2004. He graduated from the medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and currently serves as President of the Delaware Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Paul is an avid golfer and woodworker, and lives in Lewes with his wife.

#### **EMS Nurse of the Year Cheryl Littlefield**

Cheryl Littlefield received the award for EMS Nurse of the Year. Cheryl is always known for being very friendly and caring to her patients and EMS staff even when the department is busy. Cheryl is a Charge Nurse in the Emergency Department at Beebe Medical where she has worked for the past four years. Cheryl has been in nursing for the past fifteen years. Cheryl lives in Lewes with her husband and two sons.

#### **Field Training Officer of the Year Glenn Marshall**

Glenn Marshall received the Award for Field Training Officer of the Year for his commitment to excellence and his dedication to training and acclimating new employees to our system. Glenn has received a number of positive comments from new employees and students on how well he uses his time to teach them about SCEMS or EMS in general. In addition, Glenn is one of two SCEMS personnel who are Nationally Certified Mountain Bike Instructors. Glenn is very dedicated to training and keeping our bike medic staff certified each year.

Glenn is very active as a Public Information Officer and as a member of Safe Kids. Glenn is an active volunteer in Lewes Fire Department, and is President of the Sussex County Paramedic Association. Glenn lives in Millsboro with his wife and son.

#### **Field Excellence and D-Shift Shift Excellence- Jeff Cox**

Jeff Cox received the Award for Shift Excellence on D-Shift, and the Departmental Field Excellence Award, for his commitment to improved patient care as a Field Training Officer for his shift, and as a clinical leader and educator for the department. According to Jeff's coworker's, "Jeff teaches in a way that is easy to understand, and ensures that any questions are

answered. Through Jeff's leadership as the Chairperson of the State Protocol Committee Jeff has kept Sussex County EMS one of the top EMS systems in the country.

Jeff's leadership in research and technology have lead the way in Sussex County obtaining such advances in patient care such as Drug Facilitated Intubation, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), End tidal Capnography, and most recently the addition of a new device for administering fluids and medications to adults through a technique known as "intraosseous infusion". This is Jeff's second Field Excellence Award. Jeff has also been Paramedic of the Year and Supervisor of the Year. Jeff holds a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Medical Services Management from George Washington University. He enjoys gardening and saltwater fish in his spare time. Jeff lives in Millsboro with his wife and two children.

### **Paramedic of the Year and C-Shift Excellence Wayne Jester**

Wayne Jester received both the Paramedic of the Year Award and Shift Excellence Award for C-Shift for his commitment to the organization and his pursuit of professional and educational goals. During the past year Wayne has been promoted to Paramedic II and Field Training Officer. Wayne has been assisting in training new employees and serving as a member of the department's HazMed Team. As a team member Wayne has attended hundreds of hours of training, and has spent numerous hours updating, organizing, and installing the new equipment. Wayne has provided paramedic coverage at a number of special events as a member of the HazMed, Special Events and Bike Teams.

According to Wayne's colleagues, "In the station, he is a fun loving guy who likes to play jokes and have a good time, but when he is on a call , he is one of the most professional and competent paramedics I have ever seen.." Wayne also is pursuing his degree in Emergency Management from Delaware Technical and Community College. Wayne always has the best attitude and does whatever is asked of him by a colleague or Supervisor. Wayne's calm and professional approach to patient care comes naturally and his skill and expertise are helpful in providing the best care to each and every patient. Wayne, who has been with our department since 1999, is also a member of the Felton Fire Company. Wayne lives in Felton, Delaware with his wife and daughter.

## **Administrative Excellence Award**

Glenn Luedtke received the Award for Administrative Excellence. Glenn was nominated for his leadership and vision in creating an environment which has improved the quality of patient care while at the same time making Sussex County EMS a better place for employees. Under Director Luedtke's leadership the department has expanded to meet the growing demands of the community both in emergency response and community service. Under Director Luedtke's direction, Sussex County EMS has added new equipment, additional paramedics, medic units, and administrative staff to perform necessary support functions.

Since Director Luedtke has been with Sussex County EMS, the organization has evolved from a regional EMS leader to a system with national recognition and one of the premier EMS systems in the country. Director Luedtke is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. In addition, Director Luedtke has written a number of articles for several Emergency Medical Services publications and is a regular speaker at state and regional EMS conferences throughout the country. Director Luedtke, who has been with Sussex County EMS since 2001, lives in Rehoboth Beach, with his wife, Sherry, an emergency nurse with over twenty years of experience. They have two children and a granddaughter.

###

***“For Further Information please contact: Tim Cooper by pager at (302) 854-8433 or cell phone at (302)236-4325”***